(US REPLACEMENT CLAIMS - FOR PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT)

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23. An apparatus for joining together at least two substrates, each of which has an inner hole, said apparatus comprising:

a pin that is adapted to said inner holes of said substrates,

wherein said pin is provided with at least two noses that are movable radially relative to said pin, and

wherein said at least two noses have linear outer surfaces upon which edges of said inner holes of said substrates can glide downwardly during movement of said noses toward said pin.

24. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said at least two noses keep said substrates spaced apart prior to a joining together process.

25. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said pin is a centering pin.

26. An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said at least two noses are pivotably mounted on said centering pin.

27. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein at least one biasing unit is provided for an outward biasing of said at least two noses.

28. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said biasing unit is provided with at least one spring.

29. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein means are provided for exerting pressure upon said substrates for effecting movement of said at least two noses toward said pin.

30. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein an actuating element is provided for radially moving said at least two noses.

31. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said at least two noses are embodied as lever arms.

32. An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said actuating element is insertable between said at least two noses.

33. An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said actuating element has a conical configuration.

34. An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein ends of said at least two noses that face said actuating element are rounded off.

35. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein means are provided for varying said biasing of said at least two noses.

36. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein a tapered element is disposed in said pin, and wherein said tapered element is movable counter to a biasing means.

37. An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein said biasing means is a spring.

38. An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein a biasing element is disposed between said tapered element and said at least two noses.

39. An apparatus according to claim 36, wherein an outwardly directed biasing of said at least two noses is variable via a movement of said tapered element.

40. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein a tensioning element is provided for drawing said at least two noses inwardly, and wherein said tensioning element has a tensioning force that is not sufficient to overcome a normally outwardly directed biasing force of said at least two noses.

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41. An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein when said outwardly directed biasing force of said at least two noses is reduced, said tensioning force of said tensioning element draws said at least two noses inwardly.

42. An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein said tensioning element is a spring ring that is disposed on said at least two noses.

43. An apparatus according to claim 42, wherein said spring ring is disposed on an inner periphery of said at least two noses.

44. An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein four noses are provided.